

Study Skills

Specific study skills and techniques are introduced to the students.

Emphasis is placed on:

- Following directions
- Writing assignment in assignment-notebook
- Suggested homework study time
- Highlighting key information in text

Library

The student will

- Build on previous years' skills
- Understand different genres of literature as determined by classroom curriculum
- Participate in Accelerated Reader Program
- Be introduced to Christian authors such as R. C. Sproul, Beverly Lewis and Joni Erickson Tada.
- Expand knowledge of encyclopedia, indexes and computerized catalogue.
- Introduction to reference materials

Physical Education

The goal of the PE staff at Christian Academy is to help students achieve their physical best through the use of games, sports, and special activities. Students will participate in Presidential Fitness Testing, which measures endurance, abdominal and arm strength, flexibility, and agility. Following directions and participation are encouraged as well as good fitness habits, sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork.

Resources & Textbooks

Spelling - *Zaner Bloser*
 Reading - *Foundations and Frameworks*
 Handwriting - *Handwriting Without Tears*
 Grammar and Writing - *Being A Writer & ABEKA*
 Math - *Go Math! by Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt*
 Science - *BJU Press*
 Social Studies - *Heritage Studies by BJU Press & Nystrom*
 Bible - *ACSI / Purposeful Design*
 Bible - *New International Version*
 Music - *Game Plan*

In addition, teacher created materials are

Field Trips and Special Events

Field Trips and Special Events

Individual classes go on specific field trips and participate in special events that coordinate with their curriculum units. Examples of typical field trips and special events include:

- Scribner House/Culbertson Mansion
- Charlestown State Park
- Grandparent's Day
- Pastors' Day
- Ministry to Retirement Community
- Spring Concert

Third Grade

This curriculum overview has been prepared to assist you in gaining an understanding of what students at this grade level are taught. Teachers and other school staff are prepared to present a balanced instructional program and establish an environment conducive to learning. The purpose is to answer several common questions...

"What will my child be taught in this grade?"
"What makes this grade unique?"

We hope you find the information helpful in answering your questions. For more detail, we encourage you to talk to the teacher of a particular grade or the school's principal.



What is curriculum and why is it important for you to know anything about it? Is it really all that helpful for me as a parent to know what is being taught?

Curriculum is described as "what we teach" while instruction is described as "how we teach it." The distinction of the Christian School, however, is found in the one element that is central to both these concepts - the Bible. What is taught and how it is taught revolves around God's revelation as seen in His Holy Scriptures. With that in mind, this pamphlet contains the "basic" curriculum taught in a particular grade, that is the minimum expectations for what students are expected to learn. Of course, the minimum is not all that is taught.

Each teacher expands upon the minimum with his/her own spiritual, professional and personal experience, expertise, interests, or hobbies to develop an outstanding learning opportunity for students in the classroom. This instructional component is further expanded by the use of text materials, technology, field trips, guest speakers, and parental input along with additional resource material to provide each student with the best possible opportunity to learn the required content.



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Revised September 2016

Bible

Studies in the life of Christ, the early Church, and missions from the time of Paul until current day are the highlights of the third grade Bible curriculum. The contents of the New Testament are the primary focus for the students as they learn about Jesus' life, the equipping of the disciples, the "I am" statements of Christ, and his miracles. The work of the Holy Spirit and the role of Peter and Paul in spreading the Gospel are the topics that close out our school year.

Bible content is taught as a separate subject, but it is also integrated into every third grade unit of study. Memorization of scripture includes the Christmas Story from Luke 2. Students are expected to recite and explain the meaning of an assigned scripture verse each week. Students are also assessed on the concepts taught in the Bible study units.

Chapels

The student will

- Join a 3-5 grade level group in a weekly chapel time for worship, drama, and sharing of a biblical application.
- Be challenged by guest speakers to live out their faith in their own personal expression.

Service Projects

The student will participate in class-specific and school-wide service projects designed to help students follow biblical principles to serve others and benefit the community as an expression of God's love and concern.

Language Arts

During reading our teachers focus on the five crucial areas of reading as identified by the National Reading Panel in 2000: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and visual tools kept in the students' SPECS Logs. Third grade units on comprehension skills are: Main idea, cause/effect, summarization, character, plot, setting, compare/contrast, questioning, along with mini-unit on figurative language.

Grammar is taught through the writing process. Students learn about different types of writing with an opportunity to write individual pieces of personal narratives, personal business letters, research, nonfiction and short stories. Students also learn how to enhance the message they communicate by carefully organizing their ideas, choose the correct words to communicate voice, as well as use correct grammar, and spelling. Spelling is taught daily with weekly spelling tests. Cursive writing is introduced and practiced using a developmental approach.

Social Studies

Third grade social studies merges the study of history with a study of the roles and responsibilities of government. The curriculum leads students through the time of the writing of the Constitution of the United States to westward expansion. Early presidents and the efforts of democracy on the nation and religion are units that include the perspective of God's place in our government. Geographic knowledge and map skills are intentionally taught in the units. Economic understanding is also developed as students engage in activities presented by Junior Achievement.

Mathematics

Students develop mathematical thinking in three areas: conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge and problem solving. The math program incorporates hands-on activities, technology applications, expression of math using pictures, explanation and symbols, as well as vocabulary development.

Units include:

- Place value to 1,000,000
- Comparing fractions with common-denominators
- Adding & subtracting decimals
- Multi-digit addition & subtraction
- Estimation and problem solving
- Multiplication & division
- Writing equations
- Mathematical properties
- Measurement (linear, area, weight, capacity)
- Angles
- Data analysis

Science

Third grade curriculum involves students in the study of: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science, and Scientific Thinking. The students use the Scientific Process throughout the science curriculum.

Topics include:

- Rocks and Minerals
- Weather
- Human Body
- Sound Energy and Motion
- Warm and Cold-Blooded Animals
- Plants
- States of Matter
- The Scientific Method of Study is taught through the use of classroom experiments

Fine Arts

Music

The curriculum for music seeks to develop and encourage students to use their musical talents to worship God, as well as reinforce and nurture development in language skills, listening and self-expression.

Curriculum focuses on:

- Singing and playing music alone and with others
- Christian & other composers
- Hand chime ensembles
- Musical instrument composition
- Review of rhythmic and other musical concepts introduced in 2nd grade
- Introduction of whole and dotted half notes
- Reinforcement of treble clef staff

Art

Students will use a wide variety of media with emphasis on non-verbal expression of individuality. The Art curriculum seeks to encourage creativity, problem solving and self-expression.

Computer

The computer/technology curriculum incorporates 21st century skills. Students are presented with instruction, lessons and projects designed to foster thinking in the following areas: creativity and innovation; communication and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving and decision making; and digital citizenship. Students will continue to improve basic computer skills through activities and projects.